



Disaster Preparedness Public Education

Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

- Background** Emergency Management considers public disaster education to be one of its highest priorities and encourages participation statewide. Our vision is to have the best-prepared public in the nation.
- Goal** The goal of the program is to encourage, support and empower local governments, state agencies, volunteer organizations, businesses and other privately sponsored groups who desire to increase their level of preparedness or engage in preparedness programs. The ultimate goal is individual self-sufficiency for at least three days following a disaster.
- Focus** The focus is *all-hazard* disaster preparedness. This is accomplished through presentations; by assisting schools, businesses, and government agencies; conducting train-the-trainer classes; facilitating neighborhood preparedness courses; development of awareness and preparedness materials; outreach to Multicultural and Special Needs groups; coalition building and public-private partnerships. Development and implementation of the Annual All-hazard Disaster Preparedness Campaign which includes the Statewide Earthquake Drill.
- Material** The *Disaster Preparedness Handbook*, available in English and Spanish, is the primary publication used in support of this program. An abbreviated version of the *Handbook* is available in six languages. Preparedness materials are created for the *April All-Hazard Disaster Preparedness Campaign*, which can also be accessed on the EMD web site at www.emd.wa.gov. Other materials related to seasonal disasters are created and distributed throughout the year.
- Contact** For additional information contact Barbara Thurman, Public Education Program Manager at (253) 512-7047, or e-mail.